

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/EP:WRWARNE/EA/ANP:SGALLAGHER:SRP
APPROVED BY EA:EHEGINBOTHAM
EA/EP:AGEBER (DRAFT)
TREASURY:RHARLOW (DRAFT)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 138454

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:EGEN, ETRD

SUBJECT:GOVERNMENT OF NEW ZEALAND REQUEST FOR ECONOMIC
CONSULTATIONS

REFS: A) WELLINGTON 2820; B) WELLINGTON 2161

1. PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF REF. A, DAS HEGINBOTHAM HAD
MET WITH SMYTHE OF THE GNZ EMBASSY TO DISCUSS SUBJECT
REQUEST. SMYTHE ALSO INDICATED STRONG GNZ INTEREST IN
HOLDING CONSULTATIONS THIS YEAR AT SECRETARY OR UNDER
SECRETARY LEVEL. HEGINBOTHAM EMPHASIZED THAT USG HAD
NOT REFUSED TO HOLD CONSULTATIONS THIS YEAR BUT MERELY
QUESTIONED THE NEED TO HAVE THEM AFTER THE RECENT TOP
LEVEL CONTACTS BETWEEN GNZ AND USG. INDEED, THE US
VALUES THESE CONSULTATIONS HIGHLY AND OF COURSE WANTS TO
CONTINUE THEM AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME AND LEVEL.

2. REGARDING THEIR LEVEL, HEGINBOTHAM SUGGESTED THAT
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SENIOR CIVIL SERVANT LEVEL (SUCH AS SENIOR DEPUTY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY) MIGHT BE MOST APPROPRIATE. THIS
WOULD ENABLE A DETAILED REVIEW OF ISSUES. IN ADDITION,
IN VIEW OF GNZ SUGGESTED SUBJECTS TO BE COVERED, THESE
TALKS WOULD LIKELY INCLUDE A NUMBER OF AGENCIES. THE
INVOLVEMENT OF SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS WOULD ENSURE THE

TYPE OF BROAD INTERAGENCY PARTICIPATION THAT WOULD MAKE
THE TALKS MOST PRODUCTIVE.

3. AS HEGINBOTHAM TOLD SMYTHE, IF AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED
ON THE PRINCIPLE OF HOLDING TALKS BASICALLY AT DEPUTY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEVEL, DEPARTMENT, IN ADDITION, WILL
MAKE BEST EFFORTS TO GAIN AT LEAST BRIEF PARTICIPATION AT
ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEVEL TO THE EXTENT THIS IS POSSIBLE
WITHIN SCHEDULES AND COMMITMENTS.

4. EMBASSY SHOULD FOLLOW-UP BY INFORMING GNZ OF
SUBSTANCE OF CONVERSATION, INDICATING OUR CONTINUED
WILLINGNESS TO HOLD A FULL-DAY'S CONSULTATIONS IN
WASHINGTON IF APPROPRIATE LEVEL AND MUTUALLY CONVENIENT
TIME CAN BE AGREED UPON.

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